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**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

ROBERT GREENE,	:	
	:	
JAMES IREY, and	:	
	:	
SECOND AMENDMENT	:	Civil Action No. 1:24-cv-00021-CB
FOUNDATION,	:	
	:	
Plaintiffs	:	
v.	:	Complaint – Civil Rights
	:	
MERRICK B. GARLAND,	:	
Attorney General of the United	:	
States	:	
	:	
STEVEN M. DETTELBACH,	:	
Director, Bureau of Alcohol,	:	
Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives	:	
	:	
CHRISTOPHER WRAY, and	:	
Director of the Federal Bureau of	:	
Investigation	:	
	:	
UNITED STATES OF	:	
AMERICA,	:	
Defendants	:	

FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT

COME NOW Plaintiffs Robert Greene (“Greene”), James Irey (“Irey”), and the Second Amendment Foundation (“SAF”), on behalf of themselves and SAF’s members, by and through their attorneys, Adam Kraut of the Second Amendment Foundation, and Joshua Prince of Civil Rights Defense Firm, P.C, and complain of Defendants as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. This is an action to uphold Plaintiffs’ and SAF’s similarly situated members’ right to keep and bear arms as guaranteed by the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution. This right “guarantee[s] the individual right to possess and carry” firearms and “elevates above all other interests the right of law-abiding, responsible citizens to use arms in defense of hearth and home.” *District of Columbia v. Heller*, 554 U.S. 570, 635 (2008).
2. Plaintiff Greene is a responsible, law-abiding, peaceable individual who has sought and obtained a Pennsylvania Medical Marijuana ID card (“MMID”), pursuant to Pennsylvania’s Medical Marijuana Act, 35 P.S. § 10231.101, *et seq.*
3. Plaintiff Irey is a responsible, law-abiding, peaceable individual who, beyond previously honorably serving this Country in the United States Army, lawfully owns and possesses firearms and ammunition and would obtain a MMID but for Defendants’ enforcement of the laws described *infra*.
4. “The very enumeration of the right [to keep and bear arms] takes out of the hands of government—even the Third Branch of Government—the power to

decide on a case-by-case basis whether the right is really worth insisting upon.” *Heller*, 554 U.S. at 634. “Constitutional rights are enshrined with the scope they were understood to have when the people adopted them, whether or not future legislatures or (yes) even future judges think that scope too broad.” *Id.* at 634-35.

5. The “central” – but not the only – holding of the Supreme Court in *Heller* was “that the Second Amendment protects a personal right to keep and bear arms for lawful purposes, most notably for self-defense within the home.”

McDonald v. City of Chicago, 561 U.S. 742, 780 (2010).

6. “The constitutional right to [keep and bear arms] is not ‘a second-class right, subject to an entirely different body of rules than the other Bill of Rights guarantees.’” *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen*, 597 U.S. 1, 70 (2022) (quoting *McDonald*, 561 U. S., at 780).

7. “*Heller* . . . demands a test rooted in the Second Amendment’s text, as informed by history.” *Bruen*, 597 U.S. at 19 (citing *Heller*, 554 U.S. 570).

Consistent with this demand, “the government must affirmatively prove that its firearms regulation is part of the historical tradition that delimits the outer bounds of the right to keep and bear arms.” *Id.* at 19.

8. Defendants have prohibited a particular class of persons, including Plaintiffs Greene and Irely, along with SAF’s similarly situated members, from

acquiring, keeping, possessing, and utilizing firearms¹ and ammunition, in direct violation of the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution.

9. Specifically, even though the U.S. Supreme Court in *Bruen* declared that “[t]he test we set forth in *Heller* and apply today requires courts to assess whether modern firearms regulations are consistent with the Second Amendment’s text and historical understanding,” *Bruen*, 597 U.S. at 26., Plaintiff Greene and SAF’s similarly situated members are unable to acquire or possess a firearm after obtaining an MMID and Plaintiff Irey and SAF’s similarly situated members are forced to choose between seeking medical treatment and their constitutional right to keep and bear arms, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(3) for which there is no historical analogue.
10. Peaceable persons have always been free to carry arms for self-defense and other lawful purposes.
11. A violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(3) is a felony subject to up to 10 years’ imprisonment and a fine of up to \$250,000, for which a conviction would prohibit the Plaintiffs Greene and Irey, as well as, SAF’s similarly situated members from being able to purchase, possess, and utilize firearms and ammunition, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 924(a)(2).
12. To that end, the Firearms Transaction Record, ATF Form 4473 (5300.9) (“4473”) provides the following statement to individuals seeking to purchase a

¹ As used in this context throughout, Plaintiffs define “firearm” or “firearms” to mean handguns, rifles, and/or shotguns, including the frame or receiver of such, as set-forth by 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(3).

firearm: “**Warning:** The use or possession of marijuana remains unlawful under Federal law regardless of whether it has been legalized or decriminalized for medicinal or recreational purposes in the state where you reside.”

13. The current restrictions found in 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(g)(3), (d)(3), and their implementing regulations, as they pertain to medicinal marijuana, infringe upon the individual’s right to keep and bear arms, as they arbitrarily deny entire classes of persons in direct defiance of *Heller* and *Bruen* and lack any direct or analogous historical support deeply rooted in this nation’s history and tradition.

PARTIES

14. Plaintiff Greene is a natural person, over the age of twenty-one, a citizen of Warren, Pennsylvania and the United States, and a member of the Second Amendment Foundation. In May of 2023, Greene applied for and received a MMID pursuant to Pennsylvania law. Greene has never been charged with nor convicted of any misdemeanor or felony offense.² Greene was duly elected as the District Attorney of Warren County, Pennsylvania in 2013 and continues to serve in that capacity until the expiration of his current term in December 2025. It is Greene’s present intention and desire to purchase, possess, and utilize firearms and ammunition without violating the law. He

² See Pennsylvania State Police Access and Review background check, attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit A.

is a responsible, law-abiding, peaceable citizen who, but for Defendants' active enforcement of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(3) and 27 C.F.R. §§ 478.32(a)(3), would attempt to purchase, possess, and utilize firearms and ammunition for self-defense and all other lawful purposes.

15. Plaintiff Irey is a natural person, over the age of twenty-one, a citizen of Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania and the United States, and a member of the Second Amendment Foundation. Plaintiff Irey has never been charged with nor convicted of any misdemeanor or felony offense.³ Irey honorably served his country in the United States Army as an Indirect Fire Infantryman, receiving numerous awards and medals, as well as, obtaining expert qualification in relation to rifles, pistols, mortars, and grenades. Unfortunately, while serving our Country, he sustained several service-related injuries resulting in a 100% disability rating from the VA. Plaintiff Irey currently possesses firearms and ammunition. It is Irey's present intention and desire to apply for and receive a MMID and utilize medical marijuana to treat his symptoms pursuant to Pennsylvania law and as recommended by a doctor.⁴ He is a responsible, law-abiding, peaceable citizen who, but for Defendants' active enforcement of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(3) and 27 C.F.R. §§ 478.32(a)(3), would attempt to obtain a MMID and utilize medical

³ See Pennsylvania State Police Access and Review background check, attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit B.

⁴ See Email from Dr. Steven Nissman to Plaintiff Irey, attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit C.

marijuana for treatment while continuing to possess and utilize his firearms and ammunition.

16. Plaintiff Second Amendment Foundation is a nonprofit educational foundation incorporated under the laws of Washington with its principal place of business in Bellevue, Washington. SAF seeks to preserve the effectiveness of the Second Amendment through education, research, publishing, and legal action programs focused on the constitutional right to keep and bear arms and the consequences of gun control. SAF has more than 720,000 members and supporters nationwide, including in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, including Plaintiffs Greene and Irely. SAF has members and supporters who possess MMIDs, or would apply for MMIDs, but for Defendants' enforcement of the challenged laws. SAF brings this action on behalf of its members who possess MMIDs and use medical marijuana for treatment, including Plaintiff Greene, who would purchase, possess, and utilize firearms and ammunition, and its members, including Plaintiff Irely, who possess firearms and ammunition, and would apply for a MMID and use medical marijuana for treatment, but for Defendants' enforcement of the challenged laws including criminal penalties and loss of liberty and property.
17. Defendant Merrick B. Garland ("Attorney General" or "Garland") is being sued in his official capacity as the Attorney General of the United States. As Attorney General, Defendant Garland is responsible for executing and

administering the laws, regulations, customs, practices, and policies of the United States. He is presently enforcing the laws, regulations, customs, practices, and policies complained of in this action. As Attorney General, Defendant Garland is ultimately responsible for supervising the functions and actions of the United States Department of Justice, including the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (“ATF”) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”), which are arms of the Department of Justice.

18. Defendant Steven M. Dettelbach (“ATF Director” or “Dettelbach”) is being sued in his official capacity as Director of the ATF. ATF is responsible for, *inter alia*, regulating and licensing the sale, possession, transfer, and transportation of firearms and ammunition in interstate commerce. As Director of ATF, Defendant Dettelbach is responsible for the creation, implementation, execution, and administration of the laws, regulations, customs, practices, and policies of the United States, in addition to the promulgation/revision of the 4473. He is presently enforcing the laws, regulations, customs, practices, and policies complained of in this action.
19. Defendant Christopher Wray (“FBI Director” or “Wray”) is being sued in his official capacity as Director of the FBI. FBI is the agency responsible for performing background checks for federal, state, and local law enforcement authorities via the National Instant Check System (“NICS”). FBI is responsible for maintaining the NICS database reflecting that individuals are prohibited from acquiring, possessing, and utilizing a firearm. FBI sets forth

policies, procedures, regulations, and customs relating to NICS and background checks for firearm purchasers. As Director of the FBI, Defendant Wray is responsible for the execution of administration of these policies, procedures, regulations, and customs, including those complained of in this action.

20. Defendant United States of America (“United States”) is a proper party in this action pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 702.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

21. This case concerns certain subject matter under the original and exclusive jurisdiction of the federal courts of the United States of America.
22. This action seeks relief pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1343, 1346, 2201, 2202, 2412 and 5 U.S.C. § 702. Therefore, jurisdiction is founded on 28 U.S.C. § 1331, as this action arises under the Constitution and laws of the United States.
23. This Court has authority to award costs and attorney fees pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 925A and 28 U.S.C. § 2412.
24. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e)(1)(B) and (C), as a substantial part of the events and omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in the Western District of Pennsylvania.

CANNABIS’S REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CANNABIS IN THE UNITED STATES

25. Cannabis has enjoyed a rich history in the United States, dating back to the time of the founding.
26. Among those who cultivated and or used hemp for both personal and commercial purposes were the Founding Fathers, including George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin. ROBERT DEITCH, *HEMP – AMERICAN HISTORY REVISITED: THE PLANT WITH A DIVIDED HISTORY* 19 (Algora Publishing 2003).
27. Prior to the start of the Revolutionary War, medical uses for cannabis appeared in *The New England Dispensatory*, published in 1764. MITCH EARLEYWINE, *UNDERSTANDING MARIJUANA A NEW LOOK AT THE SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE* 28 (Oxford University Press, Inc. 2002).
28. Washington’s diaries indicated he grew hemp at Mount Vernon for about 30 years and that he may have had a particular interest in the medicinal use of Cannabis. *Deitch*, at 25. (citing *Washington’s Diary Notes*, Library of Congress (Volume 33, page 270) and *The Diaries of George Washington*, Houghton Mifflin Pub., 1925).
29. In particular, several of Washington’s diary entries read “‘Began to separate the male from female plants at do [sic] – rather too late’ (August 7, 1765), and, ‘Pulling up the (male) hemp. Was too late for the blossom hemp by three weeks or a month.’ (August 29, 1766),” indicating that it was likely he was trying to grow female plants, which produce a high tetrahydro-cannabinol

(THC) content. *Id.* at 25 citing *The Diaries of George Washington*, Houghton Mifflin Publishing, 1925.⁵

30. In 1850, cannabis was added to *The U.S. Pharmacopoeia* where it remained until 1941. EARLEYWINE, AT 28.
31. Ten years later, in 1860, the Ohio State Medical Society met and summarized medical uses of cannabis, which included treatments for pain, inflammation, and cough. *Id.* at 14.
32. The 1868 version of *U.S. Dispensatory* included pages of medical uses for tinctures of cannabis, including improved appetite, sexual interest, mental disorders, gout, cholera, hydrophobia, and insomnia. *Id.*
33. By the turn of the 20th century, marijuana infused medical products were more widely available. *Id.* at 14.
34. Use of cannabis as a recreational drug was relatively uncommon through most of the 19th century in the United States. The first mention of marijuana by an American author appeared in a poem written by John Greenleaf Whittier in 1854. Subsequent mentions of hashish⁶ appear in two books authored by Bayard Taylor, a popular writer at the time, in the mid 1850s.

⁵ See also <https://leafwell.com/blog/female-vs-male-weed-plants/> (last visited Jan. 9, 2024) (“Female cannabis plants also contain the lion’s share of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the primary psychoactive compound in cannabis. Male plants, in contrast, contain only trace amounts of THC.”).

⁶ “A hallucinogenic drug preparation derived from the resin secreted by the flowering tops of cultivated female plants of the genus *Cannabis*.” <https://www.britannica.com/science/hashish> (last visited Jan. 9, 2024).

The use of hashish was also documented in Fitz Hugh Ludlow's book, *The Hasheesh Eater*, in 1857 but few U.S. residents had any exposure to the recreational use of cannabis for many years. *Id.* at 23, 223-24.

35. The practice of smoking marijuana was not on the radar of national policy until the 1930s. Prior to the federal government taking an interest, cities and states developed some laws and ordinances in the early 20th century. *Id.* at 224.
36. California was among the first to ban marijuana in 1913 by outlawing the possession of "extracts, tinctures, or other narcotic preparations of hemp, or loco-weed, their preparations or compounds..." Cal. Stats. 1913, ch. 324 § 8a.
37. In 1915, California amended its law to preclude the sale or possession of "flowering tops and leaves, extracts, tinctures and other narcotic preparations of hemp or loco weed (*Cannabis sativa*), Indian hemp" absent a prescription. Cal. Stats. 1915, ch. 604 § 2.
38. Several other states and cities passed laws and ordinances against cannabis before 1920, including Massachusetts (1911), Maine (1913), Wyoming (1913), Indiana (1913), New York City (1914), Utah (1915), Vermont (1915), and Portland, Oregon (1915). Dale H. Gieringer, *The Origins of Cannabis Prohibition in California*, Contemporary Drug Problems, Vol 26 #2, (Summer 1999) (revised October 2019) at 29, available at <https://www.canorml.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Cal-Origins-MJ-Proh-2019.pdf>.⁷

⁷ See also Gieringer at 37. (Listing state and local marijuana laws prior to 1933).

39. In 1937, the federal government passed the Marihuana Tax Act, the first federal law regulating marijuana, which, *inter alia*, imposed a tax on persons importing, manufacturing, producing, compounding, selling, dealing in, dispensing, prescribing, administering, or giving away marijuana. The Act also required payment of a tax for transfers of marijuana.⁸
40. Thirty-nine years later, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the Marihuana Tax Act in *Leary v. United States*, 395 U.S. 6 (1969), finding the Act violated the Fifth Amendment’s protection against self-incrimination.
41. Congress responded by passing the Controlled Substances Act, which classified marihuana as a Schedule I narcotic.⁹

REGULATION OF FIREARMS AND MARIJUANA

42. It was not until 1938 that the first federal prohibition against individuals from possessing firearms or ammunition were codified in the Federal Firearms Act of 1938 (“FFA”).¹⁰
43. The statute specifically made it unlawful for any person who was under indictment or convicted of a crime of violence or a fugitive from justice to shop, transport or receive a firearm or ammunition. Moreover, the law defined a crime of violence to mean:

murder, manslaughter, rape, mayhem, kidnapping, burglary, housebreaking; assault with intent to kill, commit rape or rob; assault with a dangerous weapon, or assault with intent to commit any

⁸ See Pub. L. No. 75-238, 50 Stat. 551 (1937).

⁹ See Pub. L. No. 91-513, 84 Stat. 1236 (1970).

¹⁰ See Pub. L. No. 75-785, 52 Stat. 1250 (1938).

offense punishable by imprisonment for more than one year.

Id.

44. Twenty-three years later, in 1961, Congress took action to bar non-violent felons from possessing firearms and ammunition by amending the FFA to include individuals convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year.¹¹
45. In 1968, Congress amended the law again with the passage of the Gun Control Act (“GCA”), this time expressly including a prohibition against the possession of firearms and ammunition by individuals who were “an unlawful user of or addicted to marihuana...”¹²

CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

46. In each fiscal year since 2015, Congress has included provisions in appropriations acts that prohibit the Department of Justice (“DOJ”) from using appropriated funds to prevent certain states and territories, along with the District of Columbia, from “implementing their own laws that authorize the use, distribution, possession, or cultivation of medical marijuana.”¹³
47. On December 29, 2022, Public Law No. 117-328 was signed by President Biden.
48. Section 531 of Public Law No. 117-328 states:

¹¹ See Pub. L. No. 87-342, 75 Stat. 757 (1961).

¹² See Pub. L. No. 90-618, 82 Stat. 1213-2 (1968).

¹³ See, <https://www.congress.gov/117/plaws/publ328/PLAW-117publ328.pdf> at 2. (last visited Jan. 9, 2024).

[n]one of the funds made available under this Act to the Department of Justice may be used, with respect to any of the States of Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming, or with respect to the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, or Puerto Rico, to prevent any of them from implementing their own laws that authorize the use, distribution, possession, or cultivation of medical marijuana.

136 Stat. 4561.

ATF’S POSITION PERTAINING TO MEDICAL MARIJUANA CARDS

49. On September 21, 2011, ATF released an open letter to all Federal Firearms Licensees (“FFLs”) stating that “if you are aware that the potential transferee is in possession of a card authorizing the possession and use of marijuana under State law, then you have ‘reasonable cause to believe’ that the person is an unlawful user of a controlled substance. As such, you may not transfer firearms or ammunition to the person...”¹⁴

¹⁴ See <https://www.atf.gov/firearms/docs/open-letter/all-ffls-sept2011-open-letter-marijuana-medicinal-purposes/download>.

ATF'S FORM 4473 (5300.9)

50. As part of the regulations promulgated under the Gun Control Act (“GCA”), 27 C.F.R. § 478.101 requires that licensees “maintain firearms...records in such form and manner as is prescribed [by these regulations].”
51. 27 C.F.R. § 478.124 provides “[a] licensed dealer shall not sell or otherwise dispose, temporarily or permanently, of any firearm to any person...unless the licensee records the transaction on a firearms transaction record, Form 4473...”
52. On April 7, 2016, ATF published a notice in the Federal Register soliciting feedback on the proposed changes to the Firearms Transaction Record, ATF Form 4473 (5300.9).¹⁵
53. Among the proposed changes was the addition of a warning to question 11(e), which asked, “Are you an unlawful user of, or addicted to, marijuana or any depressant, stimulant, narcotic drug, or any other controlled substance?” and stated that marijuana was still illegal under federal law.¹⁶
54. On November 14, 2016, ATF announced the new 4473 would be required on all firearms transactions beginning January 16, 2017.

¹⁵ <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2016-04-07/pdf/2016-07970.pdf>.

¹⁶ See, Draft ATF Form 4473 (5300.9) <https://www.atf.gov/resource-center/docs/form-example-firearms-transaction-record/download>.

55. Question 21(e) on the most recent revision of the 4473 (revised August 2023) asks, “Are you an unlawful user of, or addicted to, marijuana or any depressant, stimulant, narcotic drug, or any other controlled substance?”¹⁷
56. Question 21(e) poses a warning directly following the question: “**Warning:** The use or possession of marijuana remains unlawful under Federal law regardless of whether it has been legalized or decriminalized for medicinal or recreational purposes in the state where you reside.” *Id.* (emphasis original).
57. Thus, it has been Defendants’ consistent position that even medicinal use of marijuana, as recommended by a doctor in any of the 38 states¹⁸ that have legalized marijuana for medicinal purposes, is still federally prohibiting, thereby depriving Plaintiff Greene and SAF’s similarly situated members of their constitutional right to keep and bear arms by obtaining an MMID and forcing Plaintiff Irely and SAF’s similarly situated members of to choose between seeking medical treatment and their constitutional right to keep and bear arms.

FEDERAL LAW

58. 18 U.S.C. § 922(d)(3) provides:

It shall be unlawful for any person to sell or otherwise dispose of any firearm or ammunition to any person knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that such person, including as a juvenile...

¹⁷ See ATF Form 4473 (5300.9) https://saf.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/f_5300.9_4473_firearms_transaction_record_0.pdf.

¹⁸ See <https://disa.com/map-of-marijuana-legality-by-state> (last visited Jan. 9, 2024).

is an unlawful user of or addicted to any controlled substance (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802))...

59. 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(3) provides:

It shall be unlawful for any person...

who is an unlawful user of or addicted to any controlled substance (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802))...

to ship or transport in interstate or foreign commerce, or possess in or affecting commerce,
any firearm or ammunition; or to receive
any firearm or ammunition which has been shipped or transported in interstate or foreign commerce.

FEDERAL REGULATIONS

60. 27 C.F.R. § 478.32(a)(3) provides:

No person may ship or transport any firearm or ammunition in interstate or foreign commerce, or receive any firearm or ammunition which has been shipped or transported in interstate or foreign commerce, or possess any firearm or ammunition in or affecting commerce, who:

is an unlawful user of or addicted to any controlled substance (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802))...

61. 27 C.F.R. § 478.32(d)(3) provides:

No person may sell or otherwise dispose of any firearm or ammunition to any person knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that such person:

is an unlawful user of or addicted to any controlled substance (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802))...

REGISTERED MEDICAL MARIJUANA USERS IN PENNSYLVANIA

62. On November 1, 2017, Pennsylvania's Department of Health opened its patient and caregiver registry.¹⁹
63. In a report published May 15, 2020, the Department had 297,317 patients registered.²⁰
64. A report published November 2023 found that as of October 31, 2023, the Department had 433,638 patients registered.²¹

**STATEMENT OF FACTS RELATING TO
PLAINTIFF GREENE**

65. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein as if set forth in full.
66. Plaintiff Greene:
- a. Is a United States citizen;
 - b. Is over the age of 21;
 - c. Is not under indictment;
 - d. Has never been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor crime of domestic violence;

¹⁹ See <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/Programs/Medical%20Marijuana/DOH%20MM%20Official%20Two%20Year%20Report%20-%20May%2015%202020.pdf> at 8 (last visited Jan. 9, 2024).

²⁰ See <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/Programs/Medical%20Marijuana/DOH%20MM%20Official%20Two%20Year%20Report%20-%20May%2015%202020.pdf> (last visited Jan. 9, 2024).

²¹ See <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/Programs/Medical%20Marijuana/MMAB%20Program%20Update%20Data-Nov%2015,%202023.pdf> (last visited Jan. 9, 2024).

- e. Has never been convicted of a crime punishable by more than one (1) year;
 - f. Is not a fugitive from justice;
 - g. Is not, pursuant to state law, an unlawful user of any controlled substance;
 - h. Is not addicted to any controlled substance;
 - i. Has not been adjudicated a mental defective or been committed to a mental institution;
 - j. Has not been discharged from the Armed Forces under dishonorable conditions;
 - k. Has never renounced his citizenship; and,
 - l. Is not the subject of a restraining order relating to an intimate partner.
67. Greene is a member of Plaintiff Second Amendment Foundation.
68. Greene was duly elected as the District Attorney of Warren County in 2013 and is currently serving as the District Attorney until December 2025.
69. In May of 2023, Greene sought and obtained a MMID after being certified by an approved doctor.
70. Greene has never been charged with nor convicted of any misdemeanor or felony offense. *See* Exhibit A.
71. Greene desires and intends to lawfully purchase, possess, and utilize firearms and ammunition so that he may exercise his constitutional right to keep and bear arms for self-defense and all other lawful purposes.

72. However, because of Defendants' active enforcement of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(g)(3), (d)(3), and the regulations, customs, practices, and policies related thereto, including, but not limited to, 27 C.F.R. §§ 478.32(a)(3), (d)(3), Defendants are precluding Greene from purchasing and possessing a firearm and/or ammunition, which criminalizes Greene's desired conduct under pain of criminal prosecution and incarceration for a period of up to 10 years and a fine of up to \$250,000.
73. Thus, because of Greene's desire to seek and receive medical treatment using medical marijuana, Defendants contend that Greene is prohibited from purchasing and possessing a firearm and/or ammunition by operation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(g)(3), (d)(3), and the regulations, customs, practices, and policies related thereto, including, but not limited to, 27 C.F.R. §§ 478.32(a)(3), (d)(3), which restrict Greene's right to acquire and possess firearms and/or ammunition for self-defense and all other lawful purposes.
74. Greene is a responsible, law-abiding, peaceable citizen with no history of violent behavior or other conduct that would suggest he poses any threat or danger.
75. Greene is currently abstaining from attempting to purchase, possess, and utilize a firearm and/or ammunition for fear of arrest, prosecution, incarceration, and/or fine, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(g)(3), (d)(3), and the regulations, customs, practices, and policies related thereto, including, but

not limited to, 27 C.F.R. §§ 478.32(a)(3), (d)(3), instigated and directed by Defendants, should he attempt the same.

76. While Greene desires to obtain a firearm and ammunition, he is unwilling to attempt to purchase or possess a firearm and/or ammunition because doing so would subject him to arrest, prosecution, fine, and incarceration, at Defendants' instigation and direction, for violating 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(3), and the regulations, customs, practices, and policies related thereto.

STATEMENT OF FACTS RELATING TO
PLAINTIFF IREY

77. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein as if set forth in full.
78. Plaintiff IreY:
- a. Is a United States citizen;
 - b. Is over the age of 21;
 - c. Is not under indictment;
 - d. Has never been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor crime of domestic violence;
 - e. Has never been convicted of a crime punishable by more than one (1) year;
 - f. Is not a fugitive from justice;
 - g. Is not an unlawful user of, or addicted, to any controlled substance;
 - h. Has not been adjudicated a mental defective or been committed to a mental institution;

- i. Has not been discharged from the Armed Forces under dishonorable conditions;
- j. Has never renounced his citizenship; and,
- k. Is not the subject of a restraining order relating to an intimate partner.

79. Irej is a member of Plaintiff Second Amendment Foundation.

80. Plaintiff Irej honorably served his country in the United States Army as an Indirect Fire Infantryman and sustained service-related injuries resulting in a 100% disability rating from the VA.

81. Irej has received numerous awards and medals during the tenure of his service.

82. Irej earned an expert qualification with rifle, pistol, mortar, and grenades.

83. Irej currently possesses firearms and ammunition.

84. Irej has never been charged with nor convicted of any misdemeanor or felony offense. *See* Exhibit B.

85. Plaintiff Irej consulted with Dr. Steven Nissman, a Department of Health Medical Marijuana Approved Practitioner²², who determined that Plaintiff Irej met the criteria for participation in Pennsylvania's medical marijuana program due to his chronic pain and associated neuropathy. *See also* Exhibit C.

²² *See* Screenshot of PA Department of Health Pennsylvania Medical Marijuana Program List of Approved Physicians search page, attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit D.

86. Plaintiff Irey desires and intends to apply for, and receive, a MMID to utilize medical marijuana for treatment for his service-related injuries pursuant to Pennsylvania law.
87. Irey desires and intends to continue to lawfully purchase, possess, and utilize firearms and ammunition so that he may exercise his constitutional right to keep and bear arms for self-defense and all other lawful purposes while in possession of a MMID, and use of medical marijuana pursuant to Pennsylvania law, to treat his symptoms.
88. However, because of Defendants' active enforcement of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(g)(3), (d)(3), and the regulations, customs, practices, and policies related thereto, including, but not limited to, 27 C.F.R. §§ 478.32(a)(3), (d)(3), Defendants are precluding Irey from continuing to purchase, possess, and utilize firearms and/or ammunition should he obtain a MMID and utilize medical marijuana to treat his symptoms pursuant to Pennsylvania Law, which criminalizes Irey's desired conduct under pain of criminal prosecution and incarceration for a period of up to 10 years and a fine of up to \$250,000.
89. Thus, because of Irey's desire to seek and receive medical treatment using medical marijuana, Defendants contend that Irey is prohibited from purchasing, possessing, and utilizing firearms and/or ammunition by operation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(g)(3), (d)(3), and the regulations, customs, practices, and policies related thereto, including, but not limited to, 27 C.F.R. §§ 478.32(a)(3), (d)(3), which restrict Irey's right to acquire and possess

firearms and/or ammunition for self-defense and all other lawful purposes should he obtain a MMID and utilize medical marijuana for treatment.

90. Irey is a responsible, law-abiding, peaceable citizen, who honorably served our Country in the United States Army as an Indirect Fire Infantryman, with no history of violent behavior or other conduct that would suggest he poses any threat or danger.
91. Irey is currently abstaining from applying for, and receiving, a MMID and using medical marijuana for treatment pursuant to Pennsylvania law for fear of arrest, prosecution, incarceration, and/or fine, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(g)(3), (d)(3), and the regulations, customs, practices, and policies related thereto, including, but not limited to, 27 C.F.R. §§ 478.32(a)(3), (d)(3), instigated and directed by Defendants, should he attempt the same.
92. While Irey desires to obtain a MMID and utilize medical marijuana for treatment pursuant to Pennsylvania law, he is unwilling to do such while possessing firearms and ammunition because doing so would subject him to arrest, prosecution, fine, and incarceration, at Defendants' instigation and direction, for violating 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(3), and the regulations, customs, practices, and policies related thereto.

STATEMENT OF FACTS RELATING TO
PLAINTIFF SECOND AMENDMENT FOUNDATION

93. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein as if set forth in full.
94. Plaintiff SAF's similarly situated members:
 - a. Are United States citizens;

- b. Are over the age of 21;
 - c. Are not under indictment;
 - d. Have never been convicted of any felony or misdemeanor crime of domestic violence;
 - e. Have never been convicted of any crime punishable by more than one (1) year;
 - f. Are not fugitives from justice;
 - g. Are not, pursuant to state law, unlawful users of any controlled substance;
 - h. Are not addicted to any controlled substance;
 - i. Have not been adjudicated as mental defective or been committed to any mental institution;
 - j. Have not been discharged from the Armed Forces under dishonorable conditions;
 - k. Have never renounced their citizenship; and,
 - l. Are not the subject of any restraining order relating to an intimate partner.
95. SAF's similarly situated members either (1) possess MMIDs and would purchase, possess, and utilize firearms and ammunition, or (2) own and possess firearms and ammunition and would apply for a MMID and use medical marijuana for treatment pursuant to Pennsylvania law, but for

Defendants' enforcement of the challenged laws including criminal penalties and loss of liberty and property.

96. SAF's similarly situated members desire and intend to lawfully purchase, possess, and utilize firearms and ammunition for self-defense and all other lawful purposes.
97. However, because of Defendants' active enforcement of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(g)(3), (d)(3), and the regulations, customs, practices, and policies related thereto, including, but not limited to, 27 C.F.R. §§ 478.32(a)(3), (d)(3), Defendants are precluding SAF's similarly situated members with MMIDs from purchasing and possessing a firearm and/or ammunition, which criminalizes their desired conduct under pain of criminal prosecution and incarceration for a period of up to 10 years and a fine of up to \$250,000 and precluding SAF's similarly situated members who possess firearms and/or ammunition from applying for and receiving a MMID and using medical marijuana for treatment pursuant to Pennsylvania law by way of the same enforcement.
98. Thus, because of SAF's similarly situated members' desire to seek and receive medical treatment using medical marijuana, Defendants contend that SAF's similarly situated members are prohibited from purchasing and possessing a firearm and/or ammunition or applying for and receiving a MMID and using medical marijuana for treatment pursuant to Pennsylvania law, by operation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(g)(3), (d)(3), and the regulations, customs, practices, and policies related thereto, including, but not limited to, 27 C.F.R. §§

478.32(a)(3), (d)(3), which restrict SAF's similarly situated members' rights to acquire and possess firearms and/or ammunition for self-defense and all other lawful purposes.

99. SAF's similarly situated members are responsible, law-abiding, peaceable citizens with no history of violent behavior or other conduct that would suggest they pose any threat or danger.
100. SAF's similarly situated members desire to obtain or continue to possess firearms and ammunition, so that they may exercise their constitutional right to keep and bear arms for self-defense and all other lawful purposes.
101. SAF's similarly situated members are currently abstaining from attempting to purchase, possess, and utilize a firearm and/or ammunition, or applying for and receiving a MMID and using medical marijuana for treatment pursuant to Pennsylvania law while continuing to possess firearms and ammunition, for fear of arrest, prosecution, incarceration, and/or fine, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(g)(3), (d)(3), and the regulations, customs, practices, and policies related thereto, including, but not limited to, 27 C.F.R. §§ 478.32(a)(3), (d)(3), instigated and directed by Defendants, should they attempt the same.
102. While SAF's similarly situated members desire to obtain a firearm and ammunition, or to apply for and receive a MMID and use medical marijuana for treatment pursuant to Pennsylvania law, they are unwilling to attempt to purchase or possess a firearm and/or ammunition, or apply for a MMID and

use medical marijuana for treatment pursuant to Pennsylvania law, because doing so would subject them to arrest, prosecution, fine, and incarceration, at Defendants' instigation and direction, for violating 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(3), and the regulations, customs, practices, and policies related thereto.

COUNT I: 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(g)(3), (d)(3) ARE UNCONSTITUTIONAL
FACIALLY AND AS-APPLIED
PURSUANT TO THE SECOND AMENDMENT
(Plaintiffs v. Defendants)

103. The foregoing paragraphs are hereby incorporated herein as if set forth in full.

104. The Second Amendment states that “the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.”

105. The Supreme Court has held that the right to keep and bear arms is a fundamental right, the core of which is for self-defense, *Heller*, 554 U.S. at 581, which is and has always been key to “our scheme of ordered liberty,” *McDonald*, 561 U.S. at 767-68.

106. Because “*Heller* . . . demands a test rooted in the Second Amendment’s text, as informed by history,” *Bruen*, 597 U.S. at 19 (citing *Heller*, 554 U.S. 570), “the government must affirmatively prove that its firearms regulation is part of the historical tradition that delimits the outer bounds of the right to keep and bear arms,” *id.*

107. Here, Plaintiff Greene and SAF’s similarly situated members are completely barred from their fundamental right to keep and bear arms due to their desire to use medical marijuana for treatment pursuant to Pennsylvania law.

108. Plaintiff Irey and SAF's similarly situated members are forced to choose between utilizing medicinal marijuana pursuant to Pennsylvania law for treatment of their symptoms and the abandonment of their constitutionally guaranteed right to keep and bear arms or the exercise of their constitutional right to the detriment of medical care.
109. There is *no* historical tradition of categorically banning individuals from keeping and bearing arms due to their use of a medicinal substance.
110. Plaintiff Greene and SAF's similarly situated members, are responsible, law-abiding, peaceable citizens of Pennsylvania and the United States that hold MMIDs and use medical marijuana for treatment and would like to purchase, possess, and utilize firearms and ammunition for self-defense and all other lawful purposes without being subjected to criminal prosecution of a felonious nature.
111. Plaintiff Irey and SAF's similarly situated members, are responsible, law-abiding, peaceable citizens of Pennsylvania and the United States that would like to continue to purchase, possess, and utilize firearms and ammunition for self-defense and all other lawful purposes, while being able to obtain a MMID and use medical marijuana for treatment pursuant to Pennsylvania law without being subjected to criminal prosecution of a felonious nature.
112. Defendants have violated Plaintiffs' and SAF's similarly situated members' right to keep and bear arms by precluding them from being able to purchase, possess, and utilize firearms and ammunition, and hold a MMID and use

medical marijuana for treatment because of their enforcement of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(g)(3), (d)(3), and the regulations, customs, practices, and policies related thereto.

113. Defendants’ enforcement of §§ 922(g)(3), (d)(3), and the regulations, customs, practices, and policies related thereto, including, but not limited to, 27 C.F.R. §§ 478.32(a)(3), (d)(3), are an infringement and an impermissible burden on Plaintiffs’ and SAF’s similarly situated members’ right to keep and bear arms pursuant to the Second Amendments of the U.S. Constitution, especially in light of the fact that the right “elevates above all other interests the right of law-abiding, responsible citizens to use arms in defense of hearth and home.” *Heller*, 554 U.S. at 635.

114. Therefore, as a direct and proximate result of the above infringement and impermissible burden on Plaintiffs’ and SAF’s similarly situated members’ Second Amendment rights, Plaintiffs, and those similarly situated, have suffered – and continue to suffer – from an unlawful deprivation of their fundamental constitutional right to keep and bear arms.

115. Plaintiffs have incurred nominal damages, attorney fees, and costs as a direct result of prosecuting the present court action.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request that this Honorable Court enter judgment in their favor and against Defendants, as follows:

- a) Declare that 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(g)(3), (d)(3), and all related laws, regulations, policies, and procedures, including, but not limited to, 27 C.F.R. §§ 478.32(a)(3), (d)(3), violate Plaintiffs Greene and Ireys and SAF's similarly situated members' right to keep and bear arms as guaranteed by the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution;
- b) Preliminarily, and thereafter permanently, enjoin Defendants, their officers, agents, servants, employees, and all persons in active concert or participation with them from enforcing against Plaintiffs Greene and Ireys and SAF's similarly situated members 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(g)(3), (d)(3), and all related laws, regulations, policies, and procedures, including, but not limited to, 27 C.F.R. §§ 478.32(a)(3), (d)(3), that would impede or criminalize Plaintiffs Greene and Ireys and SAF's similarly situated members' exercise of their right to keep and bear arms;
- c) Declare that 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(g)(3), (d)(3), and all related laws, regulations, policies, and procedures, including, but not limited to, 27 C.F.R. §§ 478.32(a)(3), (d)(3), *as-applied* to Plaintiffs Greene and Ireys and SAF's similarly situated members violate their right to keep and bear arms as guaranteed by the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution;

- d) Preliminarily, and thereafter permanently, enjoin Defendants, their officers, agents, servants, employees, and all persons in active concert or participation with them from enforcing against Plaintiffs Greene and Ireys and SAF's similarly situated members 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(g)(3), (d)(3), and all related laws, regulations, policies, and procedures, including, but not limited to, 27 C.F.R. §§ 478.32(a)(3), (d)(3), that would impede or criminalize Plaintiffs Greene and Ireys and SAF's similarly situated members' exercise of their right to keep and bear arms, *as-applied* to them;
- e) Award Plaintiffs nominal damages, and pursuant 18 U.S.C. § 925A and 28 U.S.C. § 2412, costs, attorney fees, and expenses to the extent permitted; and,
- f) Grant any and all other equitable and/or legal remedies this Court may see fit.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Adam Kraut

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